



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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Commercial Fishing for Vermilion Snapper Closed to Vessels Fishing in the South Atlantic Federal Waters on October 6, 2010

Commercial fishing or harvest for vermillion snapper in the South Atlantic federal waters is **closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) October 6, 2010**, through 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2011. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2010 July through December commercial quota of 302,523 pounds of vermillion snapper will be reached by this date. During the closure period, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for snapper-grouper has been issued may commercially fish for vermillion snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic.

*During the quota closure, **all** harvest or possession of vermillion snapper in or from South Atlantic federal waters is restricted to the recreational bag and possession limits of **5 fish** and the sale or purchase of such fish is prohibited. During November 2010 through March 2011, the recreational closure of vermillion snapper, no recreational harvest or possession of vermillion snapper is allowed.*

In addition, for a person on board a vessel for which a federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery has been issued, these provisions of the closure for vermillion snapper would apply regardless of whether the fish are harvested in state or federal waters. *Captain and crew of for-hire vessels **may not** retain the recreational bag and possession limits during the closure.*

Closing commercial fishing for vermillion snapper in the South Atlantic complies with regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region and is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.

The operator of a vessel with vermillion snapper in excess of the bag or possession limit aboard must have landed such vermillion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, October 6, 2010, and all sale or purchase of vermillion snapper must occur prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, October 6, 2010. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of vermillion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, October 6, 2010, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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